

Appln No. 09/522,184

Amdt date March 24, 2004

Reply to Office action of January 8, 2004

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3-14, 16-26, 28-48, 50-71, 73-83, and 85-94 are currently pending and claims 2, 15, 27, 49, 72, and 84 are cancelled. Claims 1, 14, 26, 48, 51, 59, 71 and 83 are amended. In view of the above amendments and following remarks, applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance.

Although, records of the Applicants indicate that copies of the IDSs filed on 7/26/01 (received on 8/6/01), and 8/14/02 (received 8/19/02) were sent to the USPTO, per Examiner's request, a second set of copies for the above-mentioned IDSs are enclosed with this Amendment.

The Examiner has raised a series of questions that are answered below, in response to rejections under 35 U.S.C. 112, first and second paragraphs that raise the same questions.

Claims 1-13, 26-47, 71-82 and 93 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph as failing to comply with the written description requirement. Applicants have cancelled claims 2, 15, 27, 49, 72, and 84 and amended claims 1, 14, 26, 48, 51, 59, 71 and 83 to address Examiner's questions and place the application in condition for allowance. Applicants therefore respectfully request that the above rejections be withdrawn.

The term "formats" in claims 1, 14, 26, 48, 51, 71 and 83 is replaced by the term "signal format(s)" for clarification

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purposes. Signal formats may be, for example, voice, voiceband, fax, ringback, modem, etc. These formats are disclosed throughout the specification. For example, on page 8, lines 8 to 29, a variety of different devices with respective signal formats are described. Additional examples are FIGs. 5-6, 20-21, and 24-25 and their respective descriptions starting on page 13 (line 26), page 74 (line 27), and page 85 (line 1), respectively. The signal processing system and method of the present invention are capable of processing these signals of different signal formats and outputting the respective processed signals onto a packet based network, not all at the same time. The present invention selectively processes these signals based on their format and outputs the respective processed signal onto the network, one at-a-time.

Claims 2, 15, 27, 49, 72, and 84, including the limitation of "the first format comprises pulse code modulation," have been cancelled for the term "signal format" to be more precisely defined. Applicants believe that the above explanations address all of the issues that the Examiner has raised under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph rejections. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the above-mention rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 1-94 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter the applicants regard as the invention. Applicants have cancelled claims 2, 15, 27, 49, 72, and 84 and amended claims 1, 14, 26, 48, 71 and 83 to address Examiner's questions and place the application in condition for allowance.

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Applicants therefore respectfully request that these rejections be withdrawn.

As explained above, the present invention is capable of accepting and processing signals of different signal formats and selectively outputting the respective processed signals onto a packet based network, not all at the same time. The claimed "channel interface" (for example element 19 in FIG. 2, acting similar to a switch or multiplexor) is capable of selectively outputting (not all at the same time) onto a packet based network the processed information, depending on which signal format is being processed by the system at that time. Thus, there is no "combining" of signals of different signal formats. Again, as mentioned above, signal formats may be, for example, voice, voiceband, fax, modem, etc.

With respect to the "demodulated information" question, claims 1, 14, 26, 48, 71 and 83 are amended to clarify that "demodulated information" is output of the data pump. As described throughout the specification (FIGs. 20-21, and 24-25 and their respective descriptions) Fax data and Modem data are demodulated (for example, page 76, lines 20-21, and page 85, line 23-24).

With respect to the "Driver" questions, it is respectfully submitted that the term "driver" was replaced by "channel interface" in the previous amendment. The channel interface includes different inputs for different signal formats (e.g., FIG. 2). Applicants believe that the above explanations address all of the issues that the Examiner has raised under 35 U.S.C.

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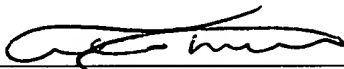
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112, second paragraph rejections. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the above-mention rejection be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that this application is now in condition for allowance, and accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,
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